

Submitted to the Michigan House of Representatives, Commerce Committee on  
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Good morning. My name is Bill McKay. I am a resident of Flint Township in Genesee County. I work as a Kitchen & Bath Designer in Flushing. I am a member of the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA). I am a Certified Kitchen Designer by this organization. I serve on the Executive Board of the Michigan State Chapter NKBA and I am privileged to serve on the Board of Directors of the Coalition for Interior Design Registration (CIDR). I am here today on behalf of the Executive Board of the Michigan State Chapter – NKBA to give voice to over 800 individual members of our chapter who own, operate or work for businesses in Southeastern Michigan **in support** of this legislation.

Except for a period when I served with the U.S. Navy Seabees in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970, I have worked continuously in the Construction Industry for over forty years. During this time I have had many opportunities to work with and observe the individuals and associations involved with the industry – sometimes as an associate working for an architect, at a time operating my own business as a residential designer and residential building contractor and presently as a kitchen & bath designer and manager since 1988.

During all of the period I have been in the Kitchen & Bath business, Interior Designers have been striving for recognition and equal opportunity here in Michigan.

In 2003, when our NKBA chapter sent board members to CIDR, NKBA voiced a very moderate tone towards past opposition to Interior Design recognition. We believe that this is not an issue between parties, but the awakening of universal support from a large body of individuals involved in interior design of all kinds – including Kitchen & Bath Design. All Kitchen & Bath dealers, Kitchen & Bath Equipment distributors, almost every lumber yard, companies like Home Depot, Home Depot Expo, Great Indoors, in fact, Sears – all perform a service everyone will agree is “interior design”. All of us have concerns about the outcome of this legislation. This concerns not only those 800 members of our chapter, but the office staffs, the truck drivers, the warehouse staffs, and the families of all of the employees of businesses in Michigan such as the ones I mention. We have been silently waiting for a resolution, but now we want to be recognized as a large and deserving, and patient group waiting for their government to do the right thing.

There is a general feeling shared by my fellow NKBA chapter members of insecurity that shadows us. We know there is a “problem” in Michigan caused by interpretations and implementation of the new construction code. What we all want is to know that no one will ever challenge our right to practice our business as we do it today; something that

has happened in other states. The feeling that we can't be sure has a negative effect on every decision we make to expand and invest in new showrooms, to hire new people. And this has been the background feeling for over twenty years. Even when I was at an NKBA leadership conference in Louisville, Kentucky, recently, I was surprised at the number of people outside our state who asked questions about the pending Interior Design legislation in Michigan. I was not there ten minutes before I was asked to address the group about the state of Interior Design Legislation in Michigan. This is an issue which has been at the forefront of governmental relations discussions in NKBA circles for years.

As a kitchen and bath designer, I work with Architects and Interior Designers. I often see residential blueprints with a notation in the Kitchen Area stating "See Kitchen Designer." We help Architects with current catalogs and specifications and we help the Interior Designers. We do not see this issue as a competitive one. We believe the Interior Design Bill Package represents fresh opportunity in Michigan. As an NKBA Chapter, we have always expressed that we do not want to take sides. We support the clarity these bills bring to remove that shadow from our own businesses. We believe competition is healthy and it promotes the best possible environment for Michigan consumers and that the full weight and responsibility of it should not be denied to Interior Designers. Fair competition inspires the greatest works of man. Competition will make all of us work harder, smarter, achieve more, and cost the consumer less. We believe that this legislation falls on the side of fairness and equal opportunity. It is more than just a matter of licensing. It is a matter that opens an unlimited future where Interior Designers can exercise the full extent of their individual talents to see to what heights they can reach. When we curtail the ability to pursue a career to its fullest extent, surely we also curtail the fullest and most expansive business opportunities and employment in Michigan. Let's kick the door open!

I ask that you support opportunity, business and jobs in Michigan by supporting the passage of HB4262, HB4311 and HB4312 to the House of Representatives with your full support.

Thank you for allowing me to address you.